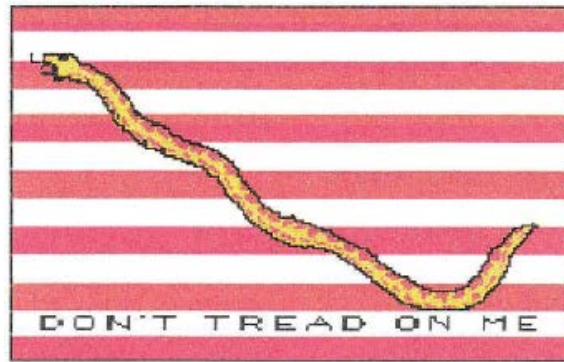


Straight From Gadsden

By: Mike Kemp



Disregarding one's political, intellectual, religious, and emotional predisposition's for a moment, let us see if we can agree on a basis for starting. Premise: Things are headed for Hades in a handbasket, and are already a long way down the road.

At this point, I think most a y'all are with me. So, would you also say that whoever is carrying the basket is not dawdling, and is not taking many side paths along the way?

Good. This is something which has been faced before, written about and discussed. Random corruption exhibits random symptoms. When symptoms point to a common cause, one may conclude that one has discovered a coherent, discernible disease. One may then seek to rid the body (politic) of the disease. Some diseases are cured by behavior modification - as is some diabetes and things such as heart disease. Others require a more aggressive strategy.

This can take the form of, for instance, insulin, wherein the body's inability to use its nourishment, caused by disease, is alleviated by forcing into the body an agent which will replace that not being provided by the body's organs. It is regrettable that surgery is sometimes necessary when circumstances are most dire.

There is hard, undeniable evidence that our government has set upon a course *for the public safety*, to disarm us. The UN documents on disarmament, dating to the early sixties' make that clear. Along the way Justice has absented herself from our courts; integrity has vanished from public service; and our policemen are rapidly becoming pirates in service of imperial government.

Our *War on Drugs* has brought us legions of black market criminals who, reared in the hell brought to us courtesy of the *War on Poverty*, instantly resort to violence in protection of their turf. Our streets are beyond dangerous, our prisons overwhelmed, our justice system gone feral. Never forget how the people cheer when doors are kicked down and houses ransacked in the middle of the night because someone dared sell something that many people wanted to buy. He who would trade essential liberty for temporary security.

To secure their rights, in a compact which in context can only be described as suicidal, our founding fathers declared that man, individual men, have rights. And that government is instituted by these sovereign men, to protect those rights, and that is all. They make no mention that government should *provide* anything beyond simple protection of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

These were wise men, deliberate men, who understood the course they chose. Prudence indeed will dictate that governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experienced has shown that mankind are more disposed to suffer while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty.

Did I really wander? Is there a disease upon the body politic? The history of the present imperium in our nation is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute tyranny over these, States. Let a candid world observe these facts.

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